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(54) INFORMATION PROVIDING DEVICE AND INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION  
SYSTEM

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To find the illegal use of information and to use that for a marketing research by permitting information distribution system, which distributes information on image and music contents, etc., to grasp the use state of the distributed information.

SOLUTION: A server 2 provides information 6 on image and music contents, etc., for a client 3 after embedding an information identification number 7 for identifying the information 6 and software 8 for grasping the use state of the information 6 in the information in one body. When the client 3 uses the information 6 by accessing the information 6, the software 8 is run to store use state data showing the use state in a storage means 9 and the use state data which are stored are sent to the server 2 as inquired by the server 2, which inspects its illegal use..

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CLAIMS

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[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] Information offer equipment which is information offer equipment which provides a terminal with information through a network, and is characterized by to add and offer the software for grasping the discernment data for identifying this information to the information offered, and the use situation of said information while offering the information which corresponds according to the demand from said terminal.

[Claim 2] Said software is information offer equipment according to claim 1 with which is embedded to said information and this information and one are provided at said terminal.

[Claim 3] Said software is information offer equipment containing the software for acquiring the use situation data in which the use situation of the accessed information is shown by this terminal side, when accessed by the terminal side to the offered information according to claim 1 or 2.

[Claim 4] Information offer equipment according to claim 3 containing either [ at least ] the user data which shows the user who accessed while said use situation data contain said discernment data corresponding to the accessed information, or said user's network address data.

[Claim 5] Said software is information offer equipment containing software for said terminal to transmit said use situation data according to claim 3 or 4 according to the inquiry from the information offer equipment concerned.

[Claim 6] Said software is information offer equipment according to claim 3 or 4 which is necessary spacing and contains software for said terminal to transmit said use situation data to the information offer equipment concerned.

[Claim 7] Information offer equipment [ equipped with a use situation verification means to verify the possibility of unjust use over the information with which the terminal was provided based on said use situation data ] according to claim 3 to 6.

[Claim 8] Information offer equipment according to claim 1 to 7 said whose network is the Internet and said whose information is contents, such as an image and music.

[Claim 9] The information offer equipment which offers information, and two or more terminals using the information offered are the distribution systems of information connected through a network. Said information offer equipment While offering the information which corresponds according to the demand from said terminal, to the information offered It is what adds and offers the software for grasping the discernment data which identify this information, and the use situation of said information. Said terminal The distribution system of information characterized by

acquiring the use situation data in which the use situation of the information accessed according to said offered software is shown when accessing the offered information.

[Claim 10] Said software is a distribution system of information according to claim 9 with which is embedded to said information and this information and one are provided at said terminal.

[Claim 11] The distribution system of information according to claim 9 or 10 containing either [ at least ] the user data which shows the user who accessed while said use situation data contain said discernment data corresponding to the accessed information, or said user's network address data.

[Claim 12] Said terminal is a distribution system of information according to claim 9 to 11 which transmits said use situation data according to the inquiry from said information offer equipment according to said offered software.

[Claim 13] Said terminal is a distribution system of information according to claim 9 to 11 which transmits said use situation data to said information offer equipment at the necessary spacing according to said offered software.

[Claim 14] Said information offer equipment is a distribution system of information [ equipped with a use situation verification means to verify the possibility of unjust use over the information with which the terminal was provided ] according to claim 9 to 13 based on said use situation data.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the distribution system of information using the information offer equipment and it which provide terminals, such as a user's personal computer, with information, such as an image and a music content, through networks, such as the Internet.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In recent years, the flow of electronic commerce, such as circulation of contents, is rapid, and the communications service on a network is being extended rapidly.

[0003] In distribution systems of information, such as such an image and a music content, protection of copyright is indispensable, when building a system. That is, it is because users will increase in number and a commercial scene will be expanded, if manufacture offer of attractive contents will be urged and cheap and attractive contents come to be offered, while the countervalue using information, such as an image and a music content, can offer information by the low price by preparing the environment certainly paid to an informational provider (rightful claimant).

[0004] Then, although that information is enciphered and the encryption information can be restored in order to prevent an illegal duplicate which infringes on copyright has an approach only with the key with which the user of normal was provided If the key is known, the action of a duplicate cannot be barred and this reproduced information is not easy for controlling the unjust duplicate action which starts unlike the information which the user of normal reproduced therefore.

[0005] For this reason, use the technique of "an electronic watermark" which embeds ID as shows an information user, a logo mark, etc. to information for information, such as an image and a music content, at extent from which quality does not fall, and he enables it to specify the user who reproduced unjustly based on ID of the electronic watermark currently embedded to the reproduced information etc., and is trying to control the duplicate of unjust information by this.

[0006] However, in this "electronic watermark", if the information actually reproduced on the network flows and is not released, it cannot check that unjust reproduction is performed.

[0007] Moreover, although a digital video, a DVD player, etc. which carried the function to reduce the informational quality to hardware at the time of duplicate prevention or a duplicate are developed, it is not realistic to be premised on loading of the hardware of protection of copyrights by common target computer by the

communications service by the network.

[0008]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] This invention makes it the main purpose to enable it to detect unjust use, as it is accomplished in view of the above points and the use situation of the information offered whether the information reproduced unjustly is not released on a network or it did not carry special hardware can be grasped.

[0009]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to attain the above-mentioned purpose, it constitutes from this invention as follows.

[0010] That is, the information offer equipment of this invention of claim 1 is information offer equipment which provides a terminal with information through a network, and it adds and provides the information offered with the software for grasping the discernment data for identifying this information, and the use situation of said information while it offers the information which corresponds according to the demand from said terminal.

[0011] Here, the portable information device connected to a network is also included in a terminal.

[0012] Since the software for grasping the discernment data for identifying this information and an informational use situation is added and offered with the information to offer according to this invention of claim 1, if it is going to use information by the terminal side, processing is performed according to said software and an informational use situation can be grasped.

[0013] In claim 1, said software is embedded to said information and this information and one are provided with the information offer equipment of this invention of claim 2 at said terminal.

[0014] Since according to this invention of claim 2 said software is embedded to the information offered and one is provided with it, the user by the side of a terminal can grasp an informational use situation, without being unable to recognize said software, therefore being known by the user. By this, an inaccurate user is found or what kind of user becomes effective in the market research what kind of information goods to like.

[0015] In claims 1 or 2, the information offer equipment of this invention of claim 3 contains the software for acquiring the use situation data in which the use situation of the accessed information is shown by this terminal side, when said software is accessed by the terminal side to the offered information.

[0016] If the offered information is accessed according to this invention of claim 3,

whenever the use situation data in which the use situation of the accessed information is shown will be acquired according to said software and information will be used, use situation data will be acquired.

[0017] In claim 3, the information offer equipment of this invention of claim 4 contains either [ at least ] the user data which shows the user who accessed at least, or said user's network address data while said use situation data contain said discernment data corresponding to the accessed information.

[0018] When a user accesses information, while the discernment data of the accessed information are included according to this invention of claim 4, the use situation data containing either [ at least ] a user data or a user's network address data will be acquired, and the use situation which information was used by whom from where can be grasped based on these data.

[0019] The information offer equipment of this invention of claim 5 contains software for said terminal to transmit said use situation data according to the inquiry from the information offer equipment concerned, as for said software in claims 3 or 4.

[0020] Since a terminal transmits use situation data according to the inquiry from the information offer equipment concerned according to this invention of claim 5, information offer equipment can receive the use situation data acquired by the terminal side, and can grasp a use situation easily by the information provider side.

[0021] In claims 3 or 4, said software is necessary spacing and the information offer equipment of this invention of claim 6 contains software for said terminal to transmit said use situation data to the information offer equipment concerned.

[0022] Since a terminal transmits use situation data to the information offer equipment concerned at the necessary spacing according to this invention of claim 6, information offer equipment can receive the use situation data acquired by the terminal side, and can grasp a use situation easily by the information provider side.

[0023] The information offer equipment of this invention of claim 7 is equipped with a use situation verification means to verify the possibility of unjust use over the information with which the terminal was provided, in claim 3 thru/or either of 6 based on said use situation data.

[0024] According to this invention of claim 7, it can be judged based on use situation data whether unjust use may be performed, and the user who did unjust use based on the user data, a user's network address, etc. if needed can also be specified.

[0025] In claim 1 thru/or either of 7, said network is the Internet and said information of the information offer equipment of this invention of claim 8 is contents, such as an image and music.

[0026] According to this invention of claim 8, while being able to carry out suitable for distribution of an image, a music content, etc., it is effective in exposure of unjust use which infringes on the copyright of an image or music.

[0027] The information offer equipment with which the distribution system of information of this invention of claim 9 offers information, Two or more terminals using the information offered are the distribution systems of information connected through a network. Said information offer equipment While offering the information which corresponds according to the demand from said terminal, to the information offered It is what adds and offers the software for grasping the discernment data which identify this information, and the use situation of said information. Said terminal When accessing the offered information, the use situation data in which the use situation of the information accessed according to said offered software is shown are acquired.

[0028] According to this invention of claim 9, the use situation data which show the use situation of the information accessed by the terminal side with information according to said software when the offered information was accessed since the software for grasping the discernment data for identifying this information and an informational use situation was offered to a terminal will be acquired.

[0029] In claim 9, said software is embedded to said information and this information and one are provided with the distribution system of information of this invention of claim 10 at said terminal.

[0030] The use situation data for grasping an informational use situation can be acquired without according to this invention of claim 10, the user by the side of a terminal being unable to recognize said software, therefore being known by the user. By this, an inaccurate user is found or what kind of user becomes effective in the market research what kind of information goods to like.

[0031] In claims 9 or 10, the distribution system of information of this invention of claim 11 contains either [ at least ] the user data which shows the user who accessed, or said user's network address data while said use situation data contain said discernment data corresponding to the accessed information.

[0032] When information is accessed by the terminal side, while discernment data are included according to this invention of claim 11, the use situation data containing either [ at least ] a user data or a user's network address data will be acquired, and the use situation which information was used by whom from where can be grasped based on these data.

[0033] The distribution system of information of this invention of claim 12 transmits said use situation data in claim 9 thru/or either of 11 according to the inquiry from

said information offer equipment according to said software with which said terminal was offered.

[0034] According to this invention of claim 12, information offer equipment can receive the use situation data acquired by the terminal side, and can grasp a use situation easily by the information provider side.

[0035] The distribution system of information of this invention of claim 13 transmits said use situation data to said information offer equipment at the necessary spacing in claim 9 thru/or either of 11 according to said software with which said terminal was offered.

[0036] According to this invention of claim 13, information offer equipment can receive the use situation data acquired by the terminal side, and can grasp a use situation easily by the information provider side.

[0037] The distribution system of information of this invention of claim 14 is equipped with a use situation verification means to verify the possibility of unjust use over the information for which the terminal was provided with said information offer equipment based on said use situation data, in claim 9 thru/or either of 13.

[0038] According to this invention of claim 14, it can be judged whether based on use situation data, unjust use may be performed by the information offer equipment side, and the user who did unjust use based on the user data, a user's network address, etc. if needed can also be specified.

[0039]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, a drawing explains the gestalt of operation of this invention to a detail.

[0040] (Gestalt 1 of operation) Drawing 1 is the outline block diagram of the distribution system of information concerning the gestalt of one operation of this invention.

[0041] The distribution system of information of the gestalt of this operation is equipped with the server 2 as information offer equipment which offers information through the networks 1, such as the Internet, and the client 3 as two or more terminals which uses the offered information while requiring information from this server 2.

[0042] A server 2 consists of host computer systems equipped with the database 4 with which information to offer, such as an image and a music content, was accumulated, and each client 3 consists of a user's usual personal computer systems.

[0043] The distribution system of information of the gestalt of this operation will offer the information to which a server 2 corresponds through a network 1, if a client 3

requires the information on requests, such as an image and a music content, after a client 3 performs predetermined procedure for user registration to a server 2 beforehand.

[0044] Thus, it is effective in the so-called market research [ say / whether an inaccurate user who reproduces the distributed information illegally and infringes on the copyright of an image or music was found out, or what kind of user liked what kind of information goods and it uses ] etc. to grasp how the distributed information is used by the client side in the distribution system of information which distributes information, such as an image and a music content.

[0045] So, in order to enable it to judge whether there is possibility of unjust use as the use situation of the information with which the client 3 was provided can be grasped by the server 2 side, it constitutes from a gestalt of this operation as follows.

[0046] That is, drawing 2 is drawing for explaining the server 2 of the gestalt of this operation, and the function of a client 3, and shows typically only one client 3 provided with information from the server 2 by this drawing 2 .

[0047] As mentioned above, the client 3 took the necessary procedure for user registration beforehand, and has received user ID (user identification number) and a password from the server 2 side.

[0048] Then, if a client 3 performs information retrieval to the information on a server 2 and sending of the information on desired is required, a server 2 will add and offer the 1st use check software (program) 8 for grasping the information identification number 7 which is discernment data for identifying this information 6, and the use situation of said information 6 with the demanded information 6 according to the information sending software 5.

[0049] In addition, although the number of use check software is one with the gestalt of this operation, the 1st use check software is called for clarifying the difference with the use check software in the gestalt of each below-mentioned operation, and it is the same also about the software of others in the gestalt of each below-mentioned operation.

[0050] The 1st use check software 8 for grasping the information identification number 7 and use situation which are added to the information 6 offered is embedded to the information 6 offered, and this information 6 and one are provided with it at a client 3. The embedding to this information 6 should just use the existing electronic watermark technique or the compression technology of two or more data. In addition, with the gestalt of this operation, above-mentioned user ID (user identification number) is also embedded at the information identification number 7, and a client 3 is

provided with it.

[0051] Thus, by embedding the information identification number 7 and the 1st use check software 8 to the information 6 with which a client 3 is provided, and providing for one, while a client 3 does not know with the 1st use check software 8 like the after-mentioned, it becomes possible to carry out monitoring of the use situation, and data effective in decision of the possibility of unjust use, market research, etc. can be acquired by this. In addition, when the information identification number 7 may be known by the user, it does not necessarily need to embed the information identification number 7 to information 6.

[0052] When a client 3 requires the information 6 on desired of a server 2 as mentioned above, a server 2 will transmit the information identification number 7 and the 1st use check software 8 with the information 6 on said request, and they will be stored in a client 3 side.

[0053] When the offered information 6 is accessed, for example, the image is indicated by playback or it plays, views and listens to music by the client 3 side, then, with the 1st use check software 8 The information identification number corresponding to the information accessed as use situation data for grasping a use situation, User datas, such as user ID which shows the use time data in which the accessed time is shown, and the user who accessed, and said user's NEWWAKU address data are acquired, and it saves for the storage means 9, such as memory of a computer.

[0054] This use situation data does not need to be each above-mentioned data of all, may be only some data and may also contain other data about use situations other than each above-mentioned data.

[0055] If the 1st use check software 8 accesses information in order to play, view and listen to an image or music, the program will be performed and it will become reproducible [ an image or music ].

[0056] When it considers as the file of execute form and that file is performed as this 1st use check software 8, for example, above-mentioned use situation data are saved at the same time an image and music are played.

[0057] Furthermore, if it explains to a detail, the information use software for reproducing or displaying information on information, such as an image and music, will be incorporated, and it will distribute to a client 3 by execute form. In a client 3, when it is going to use information, the file of this execute form is performed. While saving information, such as an image in an execute-form file, and music, at temporary file, next saving the use situation data in an execute-form file (it is an initial data at first) first at temporary file, taking out and performing the information playback program in

an execute-form file further at the time of activation and reproducing information at it, the use situation data is added to temporary file. In addition, if the inquiry message later mentioned from a server 2 during activation of this execute-form file is received, the use situation data saved by then will be transmitted to a server 2. At the time of activation termination and forced termination, the use situation of temporary file is incorporated in an execute-form file, and an execute-form file is reconfigured. In addition, although it is not necessary to carry out temporary file even if it enciphers, it becomes possible by enciphering to prevent an alteration.

[0058] Moreover, when accessed by information, as long as use check software can acquire and save use situation data, it may be not only an above-mentioned example but what kind of format.

[0059] With the gestalt of this operation, the 1st use check software 8 contains the software (program) for transmitting the use situation data saved as mentioned above to a server 2 according to the inquiry from a server 2.

[0060] On the other hand, the server 2 is equipped with the hard disk 12 as the use situation verification software 11 for carrying out whether based on the use situation data from a client 3, unjust use is carried out to the above-mentioned information sending software 5 and the use situation inquiry software 10 for asking the use situation of a client 3 like the after-mentioned, and verifying it, and a record means to store use situation data.

[0061] According to the use situation inquiry software 10, via NEWWAKU 1, a server 2 sends a use acknowledgement message and asks [ every predetermined period and ] a client 3 side a use situation monthly.

[0062] If a client 3 side is online, according to an inquiry of a use situation, the use situation data saved for the storage means 9 will be sent to a server 2.

[0063] While a server 2 stores the sent use situation data in a hard disk 12, it verifies a use situation according to the use situation verification software 11 based on the stored use situation data. The use situation data stored in this hard disk 12 are managed for example, based on an information identification number.

[0064] Verification of a use situation is performed by the following technique by this use situation verification software 12, for example.

[0065] The 1st verification technique judges that there is possibility of unjust use, when two or more information on the same information identification number exists in a coincidence term, for example, the inside of a fixed period. As mentioned above, an information identification number is a number of the proper for identifying the information with which the client 3 was provided, and if a client 3 is different even if it

is the same information, they differ. Therefore, that two or more information on the same information identification number exists in a coincidence term The information (the information identification number and use check software which are embedded to this information are included) with which normal was provided from the server 2 at the client 3 It means that it is reproduced unjustly, and the use situation data from this another client 3 were sent and stored in the server 2 over another client 3 according to the inquiry from a server 2.

[0066] This 1st verification technique is spacing suitable from a client 3 side for a server 2, and is suitable for the gestalt 2 of the below-mentioned operation which transmits use situation data.

[0067] It is judged that the 2nd verification technique has the possibility of unjust use when different use situation data from the use situation data corresponding to the information identification number which was being accumulated are newly stored. As mentioned above, in a server 2, information was reproduced unjustly, and the user replaced that the network address of a user ID who is different from the network address of the use situation data ID corresponding to the information identification number which was being accumulated, for example, a user, and a user since use situation data are managed for example, with the information identification number, and a user is newly accumulated, or it means that its user had increased.

[0068] It is judged that the 3rd verification technique has the possibility of unjust use when the information identification number which the server 2 has not sent to a client 3 is newly accumulated. It means that the information identification number of the normal which the server 2 sent is altered unjustly, and was sent to the server 2.

[0069] It is judged that it cannot answer since the 4th verification technique is not an on-line state, or he may be trying not to make it answer unjustly when a client 3 does not answer at all to the inquiry from a server 2.

[0070] Although you may verify by each of these technique independent, judging combining these suitably is desirable.

[0071] Thus, in a server 2, based on the stored use situation data, a use situation is verified according to the use situation verification software 11, and when it is judged that there is possibility of informational unjust use, while it is verified through a help whether it is finally unjust use, an inaccurate user will be exposed by the key in the network address of User ID and a user etc.

[0072] Drawing 3 is a flow chart for explaining actuation with the above server 2 and a client 3, and first, if a server 2 has a demand of the information on desired from a client 3, a server 2 will embed the 1st use check software 8 for grasping the

information identification number 7 for identifying this information 6, and the use situation of said information 6 to the demanded information 6, and will send it to a client 3 according to the information sending software 5.

[0073] When accessing the sent information 6 and using information 6 by the client 3 side, processing is performed according to the 1st use check software 6, use situation data are acquired, and it is saved for the storage means 9.

[0074] Thus, in a client 3 side, whenever it accesses information 6 and information 6 is used, use situation data will be saved.

[0075] A server 2 sends a use acknowledgement message to a client 3 side via NEWWAKU 1, asks [ every predetermined period and ] a use situation monthly, and if a client 3 side is an on-line state, it will send the saved use situation data to a server 2.

[0076] A server 2 stores the sent use situation data in a hard disk 12, and verifies a use situation as mentioned above according to the use situation verification software 11 based on the stored use situation data.

[0077] as mentioned above, in case a client 3 is provided with information, such as an image and a music content, according to the gestalt of this operation Since the use check software for grasping the information discernment data for identifying this information and the use situation of said information is embedded to said information and one is provided with it Without a client 3 getting to know the use situation of the information by the side of a client 3, monitoring can be carried out and the possibility of informational unjust use can be judged based on the use situation by which monitoring was carried out.

[0078] Moreover, what kind of user becomes effective in the market research what kind of information goods to use for what kind of time zone, using use situation data by obtaining necessary data, such as a user's sex, age, and an occupation, for example, at the time of user registration.

[0079] With the gestalt of this operation, also although a server 2 is equipped with the use situation verification software 11 and it excels in it, this software is omitted, for example, it may be made to verify with another equipment based on use situation data.

[0080] (Gestalt 2 of operation) Drawing 4 is drawing corresponding to drawing 2 of the gestalt of other operations of this invention, and gives the same reference mark to the part corresponding to the gestalt 1 of above-mentioned operation.

[0081] With the gestalt 1 of above-mentioned operation, if a client 3 side is not an on-line state when there is an inquiry from a server 2 also although a client 3 transmits the saved use situation data according to an inquiry of the use situation from a server 2 and it excels, use situation data can be transmitted to a server 2.

[0082] So, with the gestalt of this operation, in case a client 3 is provided with information from a server 2, while offering the use situation transmitting software 13 for transmitting use situation data at suitable spacing from a client 3, the server 2 is equipped with the use situation receiving software 14 which receives the use situation data transmitted according to the use situation transmitting software 13 from a client 3.

[0083] That is, with the gestalt of this operation, it asks from a server 2, it responds and use situation data are not transmitted, but a client 3 transmits every fixed period and the use situation data saved at random to a server 2, when it becomes suitable spacing, for example, an on-line state, according to the use situation transmitting software 13.

[0084] 2nd use check software 8a of the gestalt of this operation does not carry out the exchange with a server 2, and also is the same as that of the 1st use check software 8 of the gestalt 1 of above-mentioned operation, and the other configurations of it are the same as that of the gestalt of above-mentioned operation.

[0085] When drawing 5 is a flow chart for explaining actuation of the gestalt of this operation and a server 2 has a demand of the information on desired from a client 3, first a server 2 To the demanded information 6, 2nd use check software 8a for grasping the information identification number 7 for identifying this information 6 and the use situation of said information 6 and the use situation transmitting software 13 are embedded, and it sends to a client 3 according to the information sending software 5.

[0086] When accessing the sent information 6 and using information 6 by the client 3 side, processing is performed according to 2nd use check software 8a, use situation data are acquired, and it saves for the storage means 9.

[0087] When a client 3 side is an on-line state, the use situation data saved according to the use situation transmitting software 13 are transmitted to a server 2.

[0088] A server 2 stores the transmitted use situation data in a hard disk 12, and verifies a use situation according to the use situation verification software 11 based on this stored use situation data.

[0089] Since a client 3 side transmits the use situation data saved themselves to a server 2 according to the gestalt of this operation, use situation data can be more certainly transmitted to a server 2.

[0090] (Gestalt 3 of operation) Drawing 6 is drawing corresponding to drawing 2 of the gestalt of other operations of this invention, and gives the same reference mark to the part corresponding to the gestalt 1 of above-mentioned operation.

[0091] Also although he wants, as for the 1st use check software 8, to include the program which transmits the saved use situation data according to an inquiry of the use situation from a server 2 with the gestalt 1 of above-mentioned operation 3rd use check software 8b which does not carry out the exchange with a server 2 with the gestalt of this operation, According to the inquiry of the use situation from a server 2, the 1st use situation sending software 15 which transmits the saved use situation data is used. Furthermore, this 1st use situation sending software 15 is not offered with each information 6 from a server 2 like the gestalt of above-mentioned operation, but information 6 is independently offered from a server 2 in advance for example, at the time of user registration.

[0092] With the gestalt of each above-mentioned operation, namely, the software 8 and 13 for sending use situation data As opposed to having corresponded individually and having been provided [ for which it is provided ] from the server 2 with information 6 every information 6, the 1st use situation sending software 15 of the gestalt of this operation It is for sending two or more information 6 which is offered in advance and offered from a server 2, and the use situation data of 6 — which saved them according to the inquiry from a server 2 while the storage means 9 saved the use situation data about all to a server 2.

[0093] When this 1st use situation sending software 15 is always started by computer by the side of a client 3 and the information 6 and 6 — which were offered have access, like the gestalt of above-mentioned operation, use situation data are acquired by 3rd use check software 8b, and it is saved for the storage means 9 through this 1st use situation sending software 15. If it is an on-line state when there is an inquiry of a use situation from a server 2, the 1st use situation sending software 15 will transmit the use situation data corresponding to the information 6 with all the information 6, 6 —, or an inquiry to a server 2.

[0094] Other configurations are the same as that of the gestalt 1 of above-mentioned operation.

[0095] Drawing 7 is a flow chart for explaining actuation of the gestalt of this operation. First When a client 3 side is provided with the 1st use situation sending software 15, it considers as the condition which can always be performed and a server 2 has a demand of the information on desired from a client 3, a server 2 To the demanded information 6, 3rd use check software 8b for grasping the information identification number 7 for identifying this information 6 and the use situation of said information 6 is embedded, and it sends to a client 3 according to the information sending software 5.

[0096] When accessing the sent information 6 and using information 6 by the client 3 side, processing is performed according to 3rd use check software 8b, use situation data are acquired, it transmits to the 1st use situation sending software 15, and the 1st use situation sending software 15 saves use situation data for the storage means 9.

[0097] A server 2 sends a use acknowledgement message to a client 3 side via NEWWAKU 1, and asks a use situation, and if a client 3 side is an on-line state, all the saved use situation data or the use situation data corresponding to an inquiry will be sent to a server 2.

[0098] A server 2 stores the sent use situation data in a hard disk 12, and verifies a use situation according to the use situation verification software 11 based on the stored use situation data.

[0099] Whenever it offers information 6 from a server 2, it is not necessary to embed use situation sending software at this information 6, and according to the gestalt of this operation, it is not necessary to provide.

[0100] (Gestalt 4 of operation) Drawing 8 is drawing corresponding to drawing 6 of the gestalt of other operations of this invention, and gives the same reference mark to the part corresponding to the gestalt 3 of above-mentioned operation.

[0101] With the gestalt 3 of above-mentioned operation, if a client 3 side is not an on-line state when there is an inquiry from a server 2 also although a client 3 transmits the saved use situation data according to an inquiry of the use situation from a server 2 and it excels, use situation data can be transmitted to a server 2.

[0102] With the gestalt of this operation, so, to a server 2 side Replaced with the use situation inquiry software 10, and the use situation receiving software 14 which receives the use situation data transmitted according to 2nd use situation sending software 15a from a client 3 is equipped. 2nd use situation sending software 15a with which a client 3 side is provided in advance is constituted so that the use situation data about all information saved at suitable spacing may be transmitted.

[0103] Other configurations are the same as that of the gestalt 3 of above-mentioned operation.

[0104] Drawing 9 is a flow chart for explaining actuation of the gestalt of this operation. First When a client 3 side is provided with 2nd use situation sending software 15a, it considers as the condition which can always be performed and a server 2 has a demand of the information 6 on desired from a client 3, a server 2 To the demanded information 6, 3rd use check software 8b for grasping the information identification number 7 for identifying this information 6 and the use situation of said

information 6 is embedded, and it sends to a client 3 according to the information sending software 5.

[0105] When accessing the sent information 6 and using information 6 by the client 3 side, it processes according to 3rd use check software 8b, use situation data are acquired, it transmits to 2nd use situation sending software 15a, and 2nd use situation sending software 15a saves use situation data for the storage means 9.

[0106] When a client 3 side is an on-line state, the use situation data about all the information 6 saved according to 2nd use situation sending software 15a are transmitted to a server 2.

[0107] A server 2 stores the transmitted use situation data in a hard disk 12, and verifies a use situation according to the use situation verification software 11 based on this stored use situation data.

[0108] Since a client 3 side transmits the use situation data saved themselves to a server 2 according to the gestalt of this operation, compared with the gestalt 3 of operation, use situation data can be more certainly transmitted to a server 2.

[0109] In addition, when a client 3 side is an on-line state and the use situation data about all information cannot be transmitted, 2nd use situation sending software 15a transmits the use situation data which were not able to be transmitted at the time of next online.

[0110] (Gestalt 5 of operation) Drawing 10 is drawing corresponding to drawing 2 of the gestalt of other operations of this invention, and gives the same reference mark to the part corresponding to the gestalt 1 of above-mentioned operation.

[0111] With the gestalt of above-mentioned operation, also although only the use situation data with which the client 3 was saved are transmitted to a server 2 side according to the inquiry from a server 2 side and it excels With the gestalt of this operation, the server 2 side transmits 3rd use situation sending software 15b to the client 3 beforehand. In a client 3 side This 3rd use situation sending software 15b incorporates the use situation data saved inside. It is what returns 3rd use situation sending software 15b which answered the inquiry from the subsequent server 2 side, and incorporated use situation data to a server 2. This sake, The client 3 and the server 2 are beforehand equipped with the software carrier distribution software 16 and 17 for carrying out software carrier distribution.

[0112] Other configurations are the same as that of the gestalt 1 of above-mentioned operation.

[0113] Drawing 11 is a flow chart for explaining actuation of the gestalt of this operation, and first, if a server 2 has a demand of the information on desired from a

client 3, a server 2 will embed 2nd use check software 8a for grasping the information identification number 7 for identifying this information 6, and the use situation of said information 6 to the demanded information 6, and will send it to a client 3 according to the information sending software 5.

[0114] When accessing the sent information 6 and using information 6 by the client 3 side, processing is performed according to 2nd use check software 8a, use situation data are acquired, and it saves for the storage means 9.

[0115] A server 2 sends 3rd use situation sending software 15b to a client 3 side via NEWWAKU 1. 3rd sent use situation sending software 15b acquires the use situation data saved, and incorporates them inside. Then, a server 2 sends a use acknowledgement message to a client 3 side via NEWWAKU 1, and asks a use situation, and if a client 3 side is an on-line state, 3rd use situation sending software 15b which incorporated use situation data will be sent to a server 2.

[0116] A server 2 stores the sent use situation data, and verifies a use situation according to the use situation verification software 11 based on the stored use situation data.

[0117] (Gestalt 6 of operation) Drawing 12 is drawing corresponding to drawing 10 of the gestalt of other operations of this invention, and gives the same reference mark to the part corresponding to the gestalt 5 of above-mentioned operation.

[0118] In the gestalt of above-mentioned operation, also although 3rd use situation sending software 15b which incorporated use situation data is transmitted to a server 2 and it excels according to the inquiry from a server 2 side, with the gestalt of this operation, a client 3 side transmits 4th use situation sending software 15c which incorporated use situation data at the suitable stage to a server 2.

[0119] Other configurations are the same as that of the gestalt 5 of above-mentioned operation.

[0120] Drawing 13 is a flow chart for explaining actuation of the gestalt of this operation, and first, if a server 2 has a demand of the information on desired from a client 3, a server 2 will embed 2nd use check software 8a for grasping the information identification number 7 for identifying this information 6, and the use situation of said information 6 to the demanded information 6, and will send it to a client 3 according to the information sending software 5.

[0121] When accessing the sent information 6 and using information 6 by the client 3 side, processing is performed according to 2nd use check software 8a, use situation data are acquired, and it saves for the storage means 9.

[0122] A server 2 sends 4th use situation sending software 15c to a client 3 side via

NEWWAKU 1. 4th sent use situation sending software 15c acquires the use situation data saved, and incorporates them inside. Then, when a client 3 side is an on-line state, 4th use situation sending software 15c which incorporated use situation data is sent to a server 2.

[0123] A server 2 stores the sent use situation data, and verifies a use situation according to the use situation verification software 11 based on the stored use situation data.

[0124]

[Effect of the Invention] When information is used by the terminal side according to this invention as mentioned above since the software for grasping the discernment data for identifying this information and the use situation of said information is added and offered in case a terminal is provided with information, processing according to said software for grasping a use situation will be performed, and use situation data will be acquired automatically.

[0125] Moreover, without being known by the user, since it is embedded to the information offered and is provided for this information and one at a terminal, said software can acquire use situation data, by this, an inaccurate user can be found, or it can know the information goods which a user likes, and is effective in protection or the market research of the copyright of an image or a music content.

[0126] Especially, like before, even if the information reproduced unjustly is not released on a network, the possibility of an unjust duplicate action can be grasped.

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[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the outline block diagram of the distribution system of information concerning the gestalt of operation of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is drawing for explaining the server of drawing 1 , and the function of a client.

[Drawing 3] It is the flow chart with which explanation of the gestalt of operation of drawing 2 of operation is presented.

[Drawing 4] It is drawing corresponding to drawing 2 of the gestalt of other operations of this invention.

[Drawing 5] It is the flow chart with which explanation of the gestalt of operation of drawing 4 of operation is presented.

[Drawing 6] It is drawing corresponding to drawing 2 of the gestalt of other operations of this invention further.

[Drawing 7] It is the flow chart with which explanation of the gestalt of operation of drawing 6 of operation is presented.

[Drawing 8] It is drawing corresponding to drawing 2 of the gestalt of other operations of this invention.

[Drawing 9] It is the flow chart with which explanation of the gestalt of operation of drawing 8 of operation is presented.

[Drawing 10] It is drawing corresponding to drawing 2 of the gestalt of other operations of this invention further.

[Drawing 11] It is the flow chart with which explanation of the gestalt of operation of drawing 10 of operation is presented.

[Drawing 12] It is drawing corresponding to drawing 2 of the gestalt of other operations of this invention.

[Drawing 13] It is the flow chart with which explanation of the gestalt of operation of drawing 12 of operation is presented.

[Description of Notations]

1 [ ] Network

2 [ ] Server

3 [ ] Client

6 [ ] Information

7 [ ] Information Identification Number

8, 8a, 8b Use check software

11 [ ] Use Situation Verification Software

13 [ ] Use Situation Transmitting Software

15, 15a, 15b, 15c Use situation sending software